
Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

Session 4 – No Secrets

Recap

We have been laying a foundation for our study of Old Testament Kings and Prophets.

So far we have looked at these foundational topics:

- 1 - Know and Do What Pleases God
- 2 - God's Word is Profitable, Be Careful to Live it Out
- 3 - Understanding God's Anger

In the last session we looked at the Anger of God and saw that it is actually an expression of God's great love for his people.

We will be looking at the kings and prophets in Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles to learn from their successes and failures, the fruit or the consequences

We have been setting a foundation from the Law so that we are familiar with what they should have known and done in obedience to God. We will then see how it applies to us. We will learn from their mistakes in order not to repeat them in our lives. How am I different from these individuals? How am I the same? If there are issues in my life, how do I address them? What advantage do I have over them because of what Christ accomplished?

In the next session we will cover the topic of Idolatry. We will spend the entire session on idolatry because it is so important and one of the major things that angers God.

We Have Been Saved by Grace from the Wrath to Come

It is critical to remember that we have been saved from the wrath to come by grace through believing/faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament we see the consequences of their rejection of God. Seeing this induces great gratitude in us for what Christ did and what we have through him. As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:14 The love of Christ constrains me, it is so magnificent there is nothing else I can do but to live for Him.

Grasping the Old Testament

There is no quick and easy way to gain an understanding of the Old Testament. The only way is to immerse ourselves in it. Read the records! Read the accounts! Stop and think of all the books out there. Novels let people enter the world of the characters and escape there.

As we immerse ourselves in the Old Testament it causes us to evaluate ourselves in light of what they did and see what ensues as a result. It requires a response from us. The benefits are enormous. We begin to see who God is. Who we are. Who Christ is and how we can change to be Christlike.

The Law was in place from 1500 BC until Christ. There are so many records. The ones in here are preserved for a purpose.

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed.
The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

To really understand the New Testament, we have to have that Old Testament foundation.

Regarding the anger of God. The OT characters were commanded to “be careful to do”. We also need to be careful to do... not works to gain righteousness... but be careful to live out our righteousness in order to be pleasing to God. This is in response to what Christ has done for us.

The Second Death

There is going to be a second death. Not too many speak about this. We are not subject to this. We are saved from this wrath to come!

Revelation 2:11

11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt **by the second death.**’

Revelation 21:8

8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, **which is the second death.**”

All the things that people do in their lifetimes which they think have meaning, if not born again of God’s spirit, will all be burned up. The only things with meaning and lasting value are the things done according to the Word by the saved. All the earthly accolades people strive for will have no lasting meaning.

In Christ’s high-priestly prayer before his crucifixion etc. he declares:

John 17:3

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

We need to view things through that eternal lens. Why not start now and earn rewards for our actions.

Additional Note on Joshua 7 – Achan’s Disobedience

Joshua 7 – note the impact of our lives and being aware of what that impact is. Achan’s actions resulted in 36 deaths. Our actions matter. Think of the significance of each person’s actions.

Matthew 18:6

6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,^a it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

We can cause people to sin,
We can cause people to obey.

Think of our joy at the bema when we get to see those whose lives we impacted and see the ripple effect of their lives in turn impacting others'

I Thessalonians 2:19

19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

Think 2023 of those who are knowingly leading people into sin, disobedience and ultimately to destruction. They will suffer consequences for these actions.

Additional Note on the Anger of God

God went to great measures to get through to people. In Ezekiel 65 times it says, "Then you will know that I am the Lord".

Think of Pharaoh and all the plagues as God tried to get him to let the people go, but Pharaoh kept hardening his heart till it got to the consequence where all the first borns were killed.

OT pattern: Law, God warns, they disobey, consequences...rinse and repeat...but eventually it got to be too late. There is going to be catastrophe which is what happened in the time of Josiah and Jeremiah prophesying. Finally, it was too late, and the Children of Israel went into exile. Jerusalem was destroyed.

Other ministries are also focused on idolatry at this time. A group in Ohio is looking at it in the books of Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Other ministries are teaching that we are in the end times or even the end-end times. All this is sobering.

People Around Us Have Incredible Needs

Recently while at Scottsdale Osborne with wife undergoing surgery was reminded of the many needs in people's lives and how important it is to be kind, compassionate, loving and Christlike in the midst of it all. The only answer is the Word. It is time to be reaching out with the gospel.

2 Kings 21:10-14

10 And the Lord said by his servants the prophets, **11** "Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these abominations and has done things more evil than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols, **12** therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such disaster^b that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. **13** And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plumb line of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. **14** And I will forsake the remnant of my heritage and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies, **15** because they have done what is evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day."

That concludes the opening comments.

No Secrets

Our next foundational topic is "No Secrets".

Deuteronomy 29:29

29 “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

I Peter 1:3 KJV

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Gods Word contains all things that pertain to life and godliness. He has not withheld anything that we need to know in order to live a Christlike life. We should not have any secrets with respect to God and our relationship with Him. Of course God knows everything, but we act as though we can keep some things secret from Him.

In some marriages people keep things from their spouse. “Don’t tell my wife...I don’t want my husband to know...”

The orientation we should have is to recognize and address sin when we see it in ourselves.

Psalm 90:7,8

7 For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

8 You have set our iniquities before you, **our secret sins** in the light of your presence.

The fear of the Lord is a healthy thing. It is a necessity. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, of knowledge.

Secret things need to be brought out. We need to be transparent. Forgive those who wronged you. Ask forgiveness from anyone you have harmed, hurt, or wronged.

James 5:16

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

It is healing and liberating to acknowledge and deal with our “secret sins”.

Matthew 6:6

6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

God knows all. When the light of the Word reveals it to us, we should be convicted and admit it. Be transparent. Acknowledge. Confess. Change.

Ephesians 5:12

12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. **13** But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, **14** for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Psalm 44:21

21 would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.

Romans 2:15,16

15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also

bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them [16](#) on that day when, according to my gospel, **God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. Secrets will be exposed.**

Let's take care of it NOW.

Isaiah 59:1

[1](#) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; [2](#) but **your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God**, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

By grace God tells us these things so we can grow and change.

PART 2 – By Grace God Makes Known Things to Us to Enable Growth and Change

Context - Daniel got revelation from God about a dream that Nebuchadnezer had.

Daniel 2:19-22

[19](#) Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. [20](#) Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

[21](#) He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

[22](#) he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

God revealed to Daniel what the issue was. The point is **God knows**. He reveals deep and hidden things.

Daniel 2:27-30

[27](#) Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, [28](#) but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:

[29](#) To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. [30](#) But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and **that you may know the thoughts of your mind.**

God so loves each of us. He wants each of us to grow and change and He reveals things so that we may know the thoughts of our own minds. Do our thoughts align with the Word? God will reveal our own thoughts to us, so we know what is going on within ourselves. So, we can be contrite in heart, grow and change.

Context Simeon coming to Mary right after the birth of Christ:

Luke 2:34,35

34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed **35** (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), **so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.**”

We think so many thoughts in a day. We know what people are thinking by what they do. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. We need to allow the Word to shed light on our thoughts so we can align with the Word.

Amos 4:12,13

12 “Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

13 For behold, **he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought**, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name!

God declares to man what is His (God’s) thoughts.

God declares to man what are his (the man’s) thoughts.

God lets man know what he’s thinking. Is it aligned with the world, flesh, devil? Is it aligned with the truth of the Word?

I want to be transformed by the renewing of my mind!

Trajectory and disaster or fruit and blessing all begin with one thought!

God gives us thoughts, revelation on things we can do, we can follow through on them and reap the blessing or we can toss them off and dismiss as not being from God and squelch it.

God will help us understand our thoughts and get us on track.

Psalm 139: 1-10

1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

One thought can lead to disaster or to great impact. Do we obey the God when he lays something on our heart? Or do we discount it and ignore it? We need to come clean and be right with God.

Psalm 139: 17

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Psalm 139: 23,24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!^c

24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!^d

Invite God in as David is doing here. God will do this for us! He will help us to be transformed and be Christlike.